

## House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

### 10-year, \$2.3-billion Transportation Package Good for New Canaan



#### *Rep. Sherer Supports Aid to New Canaan Branch Line*

“Thanks to Governor M. Jodi Rell and legislators on both sides of the aisle, we have a 2006 transportation plan that includes an important upgrade for the New Canaan branch rail line,” said state Rep. Donald B. Sherer, R-147, Stamford, New Canaan.

“The work will involve improvements to the grade, track and signals, as well as more cars and faster service,” said Rep. Sherer.

Rep. Sherer hailed passage of a 10-year, \$2.3-billion transportation package that will improve both highways and rail operations. He cosponsored and voted for the plan.

The state House of Representatives approved the legislation, HB 5844, on April 26 by a vote of 143-4.

The package follows Gov. M. Jodi Rell’s \$1.3 transportation initiative last year that included funding for 342 new rail cars on Metro-North’s New Haven commuter rail line.

Rep. Sherer said, “I am extremely pleased that we have in a bipartisan way provided for numerous transportation improvement projects, adding to those approved last year. The two years’ transportation packages, when combined, should have a very positive impact on traffic flow and rail ridership.”

Rep. Sherer added, “We have been working on this issue for several years, and I hope we follow these initiatives with additional action next year to help reduce traffic congestion on I-95 and the Merritt Parkway. More needs to be done; the job is not yet finished.”

He noted that transportation improvements will generate economic activity and assist businesses along the rail lines.

Among the provision of the bill are:

- Improvements to New Haven Line rail stations and parking lots
- Upgrading Danbury, New Canaan and Waterbury branch lines taking some burden off New Haven main line stations

- Reviving commuter rail service from New Haven north to Hartford, Bradley Airport and Springfield, Massachusetts
- Improving Bridgeport Harbor for barge service to ease truck traffic on I-95
- Possible improvements to congested sections of I-95 east of Branford
- Increasing service on the Shoreline East railroad from New Haven to New London, connecting with ferry service there.

Rep. Sherer serves the 147th Assembly District of Stamford and New Canaan..